

To: wq-news@googlegroups.com
From: wq-news@googlegroups.com
Sent: Thur 10/11/2012 1:22:13 PM
Subject: [WQ News] Wyoming Water Tests in Line With EPA Finding on Fracking
[Wyoming](#)
[Encana Corp. \(ECA\)](#)
[Canada](#)
[Pennsylvania](#)
mdrajem@bloomberg.net
jmorgan97@bloomberg.net
lorettalohman@gmail.com
loretta.lohman@colostate.edu
www.npscolorado.com
[logo_post_b.gif](#)

Wyoming Water Tests in Line With EPA Finding on Fracking

By Mark Drajem - Oct 11, 2012

The latest test results on water near Pavillion, Wyoming, show pollutants “consistent” with findings used last year to link tainted water there to hydraulic fracturing, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said.

The EPA yesterday issued its follow-up analyses of two test wells it drilled and of five residents’ water wells. The agency agreed to conduct further tests after Encana Corp. (ECA), the company that leases the natural-gas field there, and Wyoming state officials criticized the EPA’s testing methods and preliminary conclusions.

The new results “are generally consistent with the monitoring data included” in the EPA’s December draft report, Alisha Johnson, an agency spokeswoman, said in an e-mail.

That draft report was the first U.S. government finding to link water contamination with hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Also yesterday, the EPA pushed back until Jan. 15 its deadline for public comment on the preliminary report and the newly released follow-up data.

Encana, Canada’s largest natural-gas producer, owns 140 natural-gas wells in an area of cattle and hay farms outside of Pavillion, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) northeast of Salt Lake City. The company says that contaminants found in water wells are naturally occurring and that the two test wells the EPA drilled in 2010 were improperly constructed.

‘Nature Did’

“EPA has provided no sound scientific evidence that drilling has impacted domestic drinking water wells in the area,” Doug Hock, a spokesman for Calgary-based Encana, said in an e-mail. “Encana didn’t put the hydrocarbons there; nature did.”

The gas wells in Pavillion are different than those drilled in most areas of Pennsylvania, where residents also have complained about tainted water from fracking. The wells in the Wyoming town don’t go as deep and the aquifer is closer to the gas-production zone.

Hydraulic fracturing uses millions of gallons of chemically treated water and sand to free oil and natural gas trapped in rock. The technology has helped the U.S. cut dependence on imported fuels, lower power bills and cut state unemployment from Pennsylvania to North Dakota.

To contact the reporter on this story: Mark Drajem in Washington at mdrajem@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Jon Morgan at jmorgan97@bloomberg.net
©2012 BLOOMBERG L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

--

Loretta Lohman, Ph.D.
Nonpoint Source Outreach Coordinator
Colorado State University
Colorado Water Institute
3375 W. Aqueduct Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123 lorettalohman@gmail.com loretta.lohman@colostate.edu 303-549-3063 www.npscolorado.com